

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/000303

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> C09D201/00, C09D5/44, C09D163/00, C09D175/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> C09D1/00-C09D201/10

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1971-2005	Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho	1996-2005

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WPI/L (QUESTEL)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 259181 A2 (NIPPON PAINT CO LTD), 09 March, 1988 (09.03.88), & JP 63-63760 A & JP 63-63761 A & JP 63-68677 A & JP 63-68678 A & US 4975475 A	1, 2
X	JP 2000-336287 A (NIPPON PAINT CO LTD), 05 December, 2000 (05.12.00), (Family: none)	1, 2
X	JP 2-206660 A (Shinto Paint Co., Ltd.), 16 August, 1990 (16.08.90), & EP 381347 A1 & US 5135969 A	1, 2
X	EP 264834 A1 (NIPPON PAINT CO LTD), 27 April, 1988 (27.04.88), & JP 63-101466 A & JP 63-101467 A	1, 2

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search  
31 March, 2005 (31.03.05)Date of mailing of the international search report  
19 April, 2005 (19.04.05)Name and mailing address of the ISA/  
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

ATTACHMENT E

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 63-41570 A (NIPPON PAINT CO LTD), 22 February, 1988 (22.02.88), & EP 256776 A3 & US 4869796 A	1, 2
X	JP 10-265721 A (NIPPON PAINT CO LTD), 06 October, 1998 (06.10.98), & US 6054033 A	1, 2
X	JP 3-74475 A (Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.), 29 March, 1991 (29.03.91), & EP 415593 A1	1, 2
X	JP 6-25567 A (Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.), 01 February, 1994 (01.02.94), (Family: none)	1, 2

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**Box No. II** Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
  
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

**Box No. III** Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

See extra sheet.

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

**Remark on Protest**

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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Continuation of Box No. III of continuation of first sheet (2)

(A) Claims 1-6

(B) Reason

The claims of this international application are composed of the following five serial dependence groupings:

Dependence grouping 01 (main invention)

- claim 1, claim 2,
- part of claim 3 dependent from claim 2 only,
- part of claims 4 to 6 dependent from claim 2 only, and
- part of claims 4 to 6 dependent from part of claim 3 dependent from claim 2 only.

Dependence grouping 02 (2nd invention)

- part of claim 3 dependent from claim 1 only, and
- part of claims 4 to 6 dependent from part of claim 3 dependent from claim 1 only.

Dependence grouping 03 (3rd invention)

- part of claim 4 dependent from claim 1 only.

Dependence grouping 04 (4th invention)

- part of claim 5 dependent from claim 1 only.

Dependence grouping 05 (5th invention)

- part of claim 6 dependent from claim 1 only.

On the other hand, with respect to cationic electrodeposition coating compositions, the cationic electrodeposition coating composition containing a given amount of resin microparticles with an average diameter falling within a given range is publicly known and commonly used as described in, for example, the below listed references D1 to D3.

Consequently, it is apparent that at least the invention of claim 1 has neither novelty nor inventive step, so that the technical feature recited in these claims cannot be recognized as being "special technical feature" within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2, second sentence.

Therefore, among the above dependence groupings (main invention and 2nd to 5th inventions), there is no technical relationship involving one or more of the same or corresponding "special technical features". Accordingly, it does not appear that they are so linked with each other as to form a single general inventive concept.

Reference D1: JP 63-63761 A (Nippon Paint Co., Ltd.), 22 March, 1988 (22.03.88), Claims

Reference D2: JP 2000-336287 A (Nippon Paint Co., Ltd.), 05 December, 2000 (05.12.00), Claims; [0032]

Reference D3: JP 2-206660 A (Shinto Paint Co., Ltd.), 16 August, 1990 (16.08.90), Claims; page 3, upper right column; page 5, lower left column